

OUTSTANDING REMARKABLE VALUES (ORV) CRITERIA AND REGIONS OF COMPARISON

BLM KREMMLING AND GLENWOOD SPRINGS FIELD OFFICES

What are Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)?

- The determination of whether a river area contains “outstandingly remarkable” values is a professional judgment and is documented in the eligibility report. In order to be considered as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a **unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant** at a comparative regional or national scale (region of comparison). Values are scenic, recreational, geological, fish related, wildlife related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, scientific, or other values. While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river related.

What are the Eligibility Criteria & Regions of Comparison for Each ORV?

Scenic ORV:

Criteria - Most Visual Resource Management (VRM) system Class I and Class II lands should automatically be considered. If the lands adjacent to a potential segment have not been classified for visual resources, a VRM form can be completed for the area along the potential segment. As development increases, the public has become more sensitive to experiencing scenic and natural values. Books that describe the area and outfitter brochures can be used to provide documentation of scenic ORVs.

Region of Comparison - The region of comparison is the State of Colorado and within VRM Classes I and II.

Recreational ORV:

Criteria - Fisheries are often considered a recreational value rather than a fish ORV. Examples of recreational ORVs that should be considered include nonmotorized boating, fishing, geocaching, panning for gold, travel on a tourist rail route (the existence of which is based on the stream), sightseeing, traveling a scenic byway (for which scenic values are based on the stream), and camping, hiking, and biking in areas that are present as a result of the stream.

Region of Comparison - The region of comparison is people’s willingness to travel long distances to access and recreate on a particular segment (e.g., from Colorado’s Front Range and throughout the US).

Geologic ORV:

Criteria - Examples of geologic ORVs include unique exposures that detail the ancestral Rocky Mountains, karst resources, underground streams, and sites outlined in the Geologic Advisory Group Report.

RAC - The region of comparison is areas of state or regional geologic importance.

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Fish ORV:

Criteria - Examples of potential fish ORVs include species identified as federally listed, state listed, BLM sensitive, or Colorado Natural Heritage Program sensitive species. Interconnected ecological fish systems, areas with the best example of a fish type, and areas with critical spawning and rearing habitat are potential fish ORVs.

Region of Comparison - The region of comparison is based on each species.

Wildlife ORV:

Criteria - Examples of potential wildlife ORVs include species identified as federally listed, state listed, BLM sensitive, or Colorado Natural Heritage Program sensitive species. Examples of wildlife ORVs include, but are not limited to, black swift nests behind waterfalls, mollusks dependent on spring-fed waters, critical roosting habitat for raptors, forage habitat for raptors, and habitat for river otters.

Region of Comparison - The region of comparison is based on each species and the state threatened, endangered, and sensitive species lists.

Cultural ORV:

Criteria - The National Register of Historic Places does not provide an adequate list of cultural ORVs because BLM lands generally have not been widely inventoried. Cultural sites are often found along intermittent or ephemeral streams. Examples might include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern along the Colorado River.

Region of Comparison - The region of comparison includes regional sites that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic ORV:

Criteria - There are many river-dependent historic sites and significant mine sites; however, these often may not meet the free-flowing criteria. Examples of areas that may potentially have historic ORVs include the Moffat tunnel and historic railroads.

Region of Comparison - A multi-level region of comparison includes Colorado and the west-central Rocky Mountains.

Other (botanical, hydrological, ecological, paleontological, etc.):

Criteria - These will depend upon the specific "other value." These can include dinosaur tracks exposed by a stream, a rare plant community, riparian plant communities, and such hydrologic and ground water systems as springs, hot springs, and underground rivers.

Region of Comparison - This will depend upon the specific "other value."